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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,628	09/08/2003	Claire J. Saintil-van Goodman	CLAIRE/001	3438
1473	7590	01/13/2006	EXAMINER	
FISH & NEAVE IP GROUP			REESE, DAVID C	
ROPES & GRAY LLP			ART UNIT	
1251 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS FL C3			PAPER NUMBER	
NEW YORK, NY 10020-1105			3677	

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed 12/16/2005.

Status of Claims

[1] Claims 1-18 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

[2] This application contains claims 1-6, 12-18 drawn to a species nonelected without traverse in Paper No. 6/20/2005. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Drawings

[3] The drawing(s) were previously objected for informalities. In view of Applicant's replacement drawing(s) submitted on 12/16/2005, all previous objection(s) to the drawings have not been withdrawn. The drawings appear to be emulative of the original drawings submitted 9/8/2003. Thus, the replacement drawings have not been entered, and the following drawing objection still remains.

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings should exemplify more detail and better quality. Fig. 1, for example, though a general overview of the claimed invention, should still be of better quality and detail, so that paramount attributes and specifications of the claimed invention are more efficiently presented, and thus differentiated from other art. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the

Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

[4] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

[5] Claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as clearly anticipated by Chang, US-6,243,921, because the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, or in public use or on sale in this country more than one (1) year prior to the application for patent in the United States.

The shape and appearance of Chang is identical in all material respects to that of the claimed design, *Hupp v. Siroflex of America Inc.*, 122 F.3d 1456, 43 USPQ2d 1887 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

As for Claim 7, Chang teaches clip assembly comprising:

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a jewelry housing (11 in Fig. 5) that is not operable to be opened, said jewelry housing (11) having an exterior surface (11) and an interior storage space (inside 12' in Fig. 6); and

a tether (2) having a first and second end, wherein said tether is self-retractable into said interior storage space (inside 12' in Fig. 6) of said jewelry housing (11); and

a locking mechanism (122 in Figs. 3 and 4) including a tooth (member below 122 in Figs. 3 and 4) to lock said tether (2) in place (Fig. 4-locked; Fig. 3-unlocked via the member (tooth) below 122).

Re: Claim 8, further comprising:

a fixture (13 in Fig. 2) located on said exterior surface (11);

an attachment (3, 31,32,41) on said first end of said tether that is operable to mate with said fixture (13).

Re: Claim 9, further comprising an aperture (121) extending from said interior storage space to said exterior surface, wherein said aperture (121) has an aperture diameter that is greater than the diameter of said tether (2) and said attachment (3, 31,32,41) is not operable to fit through said aperture (121) diameter.

Re: Claim 10, wherein said interior storage surface further comprising:

a spiral spring (15) having a first and second spiral spring end;

an axle (123);

a hollow spindle (14), wherein said first spiral spring end is fixed to said axle and said second spiral spring end is fixed to said spindle, wherein said second end of said tether is fixed to the exterior of said hollow spindle (Figs. 2-4).

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Re: Claim 11, wherein said tether (2) is a transparent wire, a wire, a chain, a band, or a belt.

Response to Arguments

[6] Applicant amendment filed 12/16/2005 regarding rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 have been fully considered. The amendment, however, is still anticipated by Chang (see above). It is the claims that define the claimed invention, and it is claims, not specifications, or potential benefits (“...provides a more secure lock...”) that are anticipated or unpatentable. *Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices Inc.*, 7 USPQ2d 1064. In the instant case, Change does indeed show a tooth (the member below 122) that locks the tether (2) in place (see figures 3 and 4).

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Conclusion

[7] Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

[8] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David C. Reese whose telephone number is (571) 272-7082. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

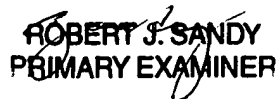
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached at (571) 272-7075. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is the following: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DCR


12/28/05

David Reese
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 3677


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER